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Agronomy and Horticulture Department

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Agronomy & Horticulture Newsletter, January 14, 2011

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SCHEDULE FOR AGRONOMY & HORTICULTURE FACULTY MEETINGS

Faculty meetings from February through June are listed below and will be held in 150 Keim Hall:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Friday, February 18	10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Tuesday, March 15	8:30-10:30 a.m.
Thursday, April 14	10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Wednesday, May 11	8:30-10:30 a.m.
Tuesday, June 14	3-5 p.m.

INFORMATION FROM OUR HAPPI BUSINESS CENTER

Mileage Reimbursement Rate for 2011 and Other Travel Information:

For UNL travel occurring on or after January 1, 2011, UNL's mileage reimbursement rate will increase from \$.50/mile to \$.51/mile. UNL adheres to the federal mileage reimbursement rate. Travel occurring on or before December 31, 2010, will be reimbursed at the old rate of \$.50 per mile. A revised "Employee Travel Expense Voucher January 2011.xls" is on our server. (Look for it in the FORMS folder under the sub-folder "Travel Forms.")

When traveling by vehicles on official university business, UNL faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to rent a vehicle from Transportation Services. If a sedan travels more than 44 miles in a day, it is more economical for the department to rent a vehicle from Transportation Services than to pay personal mileage reimbursement. Transportation Services offers other cost saving rentals such as a limited number of Omaha airport sedans or Enterprise Rent-A-Car one-way rentals to Epply Airfield.

Employees who drive their personal vehicle for University business need to be aware that their personal insurance is the primary coverage, not only for themselves, but also for their passengers. The University insurance serves as a secondary coverage only. The University's insurance also does not provide physical damage coverage for the employee's personal vehicle. When employees operate University-owned vehicles on official University business this transfers the liability and physical damage to the University. Call Transportation Services at 472-2659 for additional information.

2010 W-2 Now Available in Firefly:

You can get a jump start on filling out your tax forms and not wait for your paper copy of your W-2. Through the Firefly website, employees will be able to display and print their **2010 W-2** information before the printed form is distributed.

To access your W-2, logon to your Firefly account and click the **Employee Self Service** option. Scroll down to the **Payment** section and select the **Employee 2010 W-2** option.

On W-2 screen, click the (Options) icon in the upper right corner and select **Help** for additional hints, including how to print and save a copy of your W-2.

Contact your campus **Payroll Office** if you have questions about your W-2 or need a copy of a previous year's information. (UNL's Payroll office number is 472-2010.)

LIVE HEALTHY NEBRASKA 2011

The social activity program, Live Healthy Nebraska, has just started, but it's not too late to sign up. Besides being a good motivator to get more active, you'll get a t-shirt, access to an online activity website/log, coupons, and more. And at just \$5, it's a steal. If you'd like to join a team, contact Aaron Franco at 472-1524 or afranco2@unl.edu. For more information, go to <http://www.livehealthynebraska.org>.

DEPARTMENTAL PHOTO CONTEST

Our 5th Annual Photo Contest is on again, and you have until January 21 to submit your photos (up to three). Voting will take place January 28–February 3, and winners will be announced on February 8. To enter, send your photos to Aaron Franco (afranco2@unl.edu).

A WORD FROM YOUR OFFICE PROFESSIONALS

With the spring semester underway, the Office Professionals want to remind you that we can assist with teaching preparations. The staff can help with Blackboard management and updates (including Grade Center), course notes, making seating charts, creating PowerPoints, typing and copying confidential quizzes & exams, arranging field trips, making pdfs, and making copies. Please contact Kathy Schindler, kschindler1@unl.edu, 472-1508, or John Dillingham, jdillingham2@unl.edu, 472-1548, to let us know how we may help you with your teaching assignments.



----- Brenda, Carola, Karen, Kat, Kathy, Linda, and Marlene

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST EMPLOYEE

Pierce Hansen joined our department recently as an Extension Assistant for Pesticide Education. Pierce is located in 377E Plant Sciences Hall; phone 2-9566. Stop by his office to say “Hello” when you get the chance.

CONGRATULATIONS! ★

Walt Schacht received a Fulbright Scholar Award and will be serving as an ambassador for the University of Nebraska. He and his wife, Carol, are spending the next year living in the area of Southern Africa. Walt’s work site is the Polytechnic University of Namibia. While in Africa, Walt will be studying the encroachment of the black thorn acacia and its impact on the biodiversity of plants and grasses, as well as its effect on farming.

UNL Extension and the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association presented annual awards to extension faculty and staff at their annual fall conference in Kearney in 2010. The “Extension New Employee” award was presented to **Lowell Sandell**, an extension educator since March 2007.

The 2010 65th North Central Weed Science Society Meeting took place last December 13-16 in Lexington, KY. Three of our graduate students received awards: **Jared Schmidt** and **Roberto Javier Crespo** were awarded first and second place, respectively, in the Graduate Student Poster Competition, Weed Biology and Ecology Division. Jared’s poster title was “*Sorghum x Shattercane Outcrossing in the Field*” and Javier’s poster was titled “*Response of Nebraska Horseweed Populations to Dicamba.*” **Santiago Ulloa** was awarded first place in the Soybean/Legume/Forage and Range Division with his oral presentation titled “*The Timing of Broadcast Flaming Influenced Soybean Yield.*”

Congratulations to **Sam Wortman** and **Joshua Widhalm**, who received "Honorable Mention" by the Office of Graduate Studies in the Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant Award competition. They will be recognized at a reception on February 3 at the Van Brunt Visitors Center.

Aaron Andersen received the Curtis Fellowship for incoming graduate students. Aaron begins his M.S. program in plant breeding and genetics this semester under the supervision of Dr. Aaron Lorenz.



Ben and Melissa Lennander’s New Baby Girl: Ben writes, “Melissa and I are proud parents of our fourth child, Norah Kalei. She was born 12/29/10 at 2:40 p.m., weighed 8 lbs., 4 oz, and measured 21 inches in length. She is wonderful and looks just like Gabrielle when she was born. She has been sleeping pretty good and eating well. Melissa is doing well and we are doing our best to get the most sleep we can by trading off staying up with her at various times during the night :) The kids are so excited to have a younger sister, although Jeremiah does not pay her nearly as much attention as the girls. He is more excited about playing with the cars and trucks he got for Christmas.”

SPRING 2011 SEMINAR SCHEDULE FOR AGRONOMY & HORTICULTURE
Fridays at 3:30 p.m. (refreshments at 3:00 p.m.)
150 Keim Hall

- Jan 14 IANR: Innovating Food, Natural Resource and Community Security; Ronnie Green, NU Vice President & IANR Harlen Vice Chancellor
- Jan 21 Ethanol Co-Product Utilization and Fertilization Effects on Carbon and Nitrogen Cycling in Pastures; John Guretzky, Agronomy & Horticulture
- Jan 28 Advances in Ecosystem Carbon Balance, Leaf Area Index and Photosynthesis; Shannon Loriaux, Senior Applications Scientist, Li-Cor
- Feb 4 Improving the Power of Genome-Wide Selection and Association Mapping for Cultivar Development; Aaron Lorenz, Agronomy & Horticulture
- Feb 11 Mechanisms of Biological Methane Production; Nicole Baun Murphy, Biochemistry, Redox Biology Center at the Beadle Center
- Feb 18 Elucidating the Nutritional Benefits and Improving Quality of Whole Grains and Other Sources of Dietary Fiber; Devin J. Rose, Food Science & Technology
- Feb 25 Measurements of CH₄ and Other Fluxes using Eddy Covariance Technique: Instrument & Methodology Perspectives on Open-Path Low-Power Design; George Burba, Principal Scientist, Li-Cor
- Mar 4 Sorghum for Bioenergy; Ismail Dweikat, Agronomy & Horticulture
- Mar 11 Bioprocessing of Lignocellulosic Biomass: Addressing Challenges at Multiple Scales; Deepak Keshwani, Biological Systems Engineering
- Mar 18 High Resolution Methods Define Patterns of Fatty Acid Trafficking; Paul Black, Biochemistry
- Apr 1 Marker Assisted Selection for Grain Yield in Soybean & Implications for MAS in General; Scott Sebatian, Ph.D., Trait Interaction Genetics, Pioneer Company (Johnston, IA)
- Apr 8 Carbon Dioxide Exchange in Agricultural Ecosystems; Shashi Verma, Bessey Professorship, School of Natural Resources
- Apr 15 Building Stress Gene Networks in Crops; Harkamal Walia, Agronomy & Horticulture
- Apr 22 Soil Carbon Loss Contributes to Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Biofuels; Adam Liska, Biological Systems Engineering
- Apr 29 Progress on Making a Perfect Fertilizer, i.e., Feedlot Manure; Galen Erickson, Animal Science

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Feb 18 **Agronomy & Horticulture Faculty Meeting**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., 150 Keim Hall
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2011 CROP PRODUCTION CLINICS

Cost of the clinic is \$50.00 (\$60.00 if recertifying for either commercial/noncommercial [Ag Plant] or private pesticide applicator licenses). The fee includes noon meal and refreshments, 2011 Guide for Weed Management in Nebraska, and printed 2011 Proceedings.

Pre-registration is available on-line at <http://cpc.unl.edu> up to 24 hours before the clinic begins.

On-site registration begins at 8:00 a.m. local time. Cash or check only. Please make checks payable to: University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Certified Crop Advisors can earn a maximum of six Continuing Education Units (CEUs). CEUs in the following categories will be offered: six Pest Management, one Nutrient Management, two Soil & Water Management, three Crop Production. Your CCA number will be required.

Programs begin at 8:45 a.m. and end at 3:35 p.m. local time.

Tuesday, Jan. 18

Community Center, 606 E. 4th Street, Ainsworth, NE (Only Pest Management topics will be offered at this clinic.)

Wednesday, Jan. 19

Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College, 601 East Benjamin, Norfolk, NE

Thursday, Jan. 20

Midland University Event Center, 900 N. Clarkson Street, Fremont, NE

NEW SHORT COURSE OFFERED THIS SUMMER IN NORTH PLATTE

Steve Young, Weed Ecologist at our West Central Research & Extension Center, has developed and organized a new short course, "North American Invasive Plant Ecology and Management Short Course."

This course is being held July 6-8, 2011, at the West Central Research & Extension Center in North Platte. **Registration is limited to 40 participants and is due by May 1, 2011.** Copies of the course brochure are available on the table in 279 Plant Sciences Hall.) **Graduate students are welcome to enroll.**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

For the latest news, information, and list of events at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, please visit <http://ianrhome.unl.edu/home>. Click on **IANR News Feed** or the **IANR Calendar** under the heading "Timely Topics."

If you would like to submit events for our events calendar, give them to **Aaron Franco** after they have been approved by the department head. Our calendar also shows events posted on the IANR and CASNR calendars. Go to: <http://events.unl.edu/agronomy>.

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FYI: Visit UNL's Office of Sponsored Programs web site for funding announcements in PDF format at <http://www.unl.edu/research/sp1/index.shtml> under "Funding Opportunities." These announcements are compiled from the funding opportunities offered by federal funding agencies, private foundations, and a variety of additional entities. If you want to subscribe to Funding Announcements, contact Nathan Meier (472-1808 or nmeier2@unl.edu). Additional funding opportunities may be found at <http://www.grants.gov>. Grants.gov is the single access point for individuals to search competitive funding opportunities from more than 900 grant programs offered by the 26 federal grant-making agencies.
